

May 13, 2003

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS ZEV YAROSLAVSKY AND MICHAEL ANTONOVICH

To bring attention to the tremendous need for community support for the thousands of youth in foster care, May has been declared “National Foster Care Month”.

In Los Angeles County, there are approximately 30,000 children in foster care. Most children stay in foster care only temporarily and are reunited with their families, but many remain in care for 2 years or longer, and some spend the majority of their childhood in foster care.

While the Department of Children and Family Services assumes responsibility for the youth in foster care, our entire community bears the responsibility for helping to support and "parent" these youth. Indeed, many foster youth have special needs that cannot be met through government funding alone.

There are many ways for the community to support foster children. Adults can become foster parents or adoptive parents. There are volunteer programs, such as the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, mentoring, and tutoring programs. Donating a gift to help a foster youth meaningfully celebrate a birthday is another form of support.

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors proclaim the week of May 11-17, 2003 as “Foster Care Awareness Week” in the County of Los Angeles to bring attention to the tremendous need for community support for the thousands of youth in foster care.

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